

The Gate (an open door to Jesus)

January 2025

Happy New Year

A Word from Pastor Bob

From time to time, all of us face difficult questions in our lives, or we have to make difficult decisions. But there is an Answer to every question and a Solution to every problem. In Luke chapter 11, Jesus talks to His disciples about asking and receiving and gives examples of natural parents providing for their children “Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?” It may be that you can relate to that or it may be that you have been disappointed by a parent who did not provide for you. Whatever our experience with family or friends, good or bad, there is Someone who never fails, Someone we can always rely on.

At the end of the passage Jesus says “how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” The Holy Spirit is the Answer to every question and the Solution to every problem. As we learn to “live in the Spirit”, we gain access to divine wisdom and understanding and a different perspective on our circumstances – the perspective of a child of the King “seated with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”.

“...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1 v 9).

A Note from the Editor

Good Morning to YOU.

Thank You Father for this blessed new day a day that You have made and I will be glad and be grateful in it.

January, a time for new, fresh beginnings. A time to forget the past and move forward into a new chapter of your life. And a time for new opportunities, look for them for they are there.

Until next next month – may the Lord bless you.

Against all Odds

Last year a friend aged 96 planted some Hyacinth bulbs in a lovely stone pot in the care home he was in. They looked beautiful when they came out. After their spate of flowering their season was over until the next year.

I believe that when they have finished flowering and have died off you can put them in a cool place and when your hyacinths have already finished flowering, cut off the flower spikes so they do not put any energy into making seeds you can leave all the foliage to feed next year's bulbs.

I went into my conservatory and what an amazing thing I saw this year 2025 I saw the bulbs with new shoots and greenery coming through each bulb. I didn't put them in a dark place I didn't water them really I just left them.

So, you see what we think works, right or not can be of a surprise.

- Don't right things off just because they have not turned out the way that you wanted, remember God has something else for you in His way.
- Don't right people off because you just never know what can emerge out of something or someone God has created.

Ephesians 4 v 32 (NIV) says this...Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God has forgiven you.

If you want instant Confidence and Courage this story is for you
A **true story** of John

On my visit to a Stately Home one Saturday, I was having my dinner in the cafe and I was a little distracted by two ladies giving a hug to John the elderly man (at that time I did not know his name). Isn't it funny how we get distracted or should I say how God brings things to our attention (that's better) anyway I looked on and then John was sitting having his dinner I thought that the man standing next to him was his son and because all the staff were so very friendly to him maybe I thought he was family member of the Stately Home.

I left after my dinner and walked around the hall and the gardens which probably took around 2-3 hours not thinking of John. Now it was time to walk back to the car to come back home. Then sitting on a bench on his own was John. We chatted for a while he told me that he gone to the Stately Home to thank the staff for the lovely birthday card they got him as it was his (wait for it) 100 years old. I nearly fell off the bench when he told me his age he looked like in his late 80's early 90's. I asked him who brought you here he said I drove here on my own and he said it with such confidence and he told me that he had been given the "all clear" for his eyes so he could continue to drive and to be driving at his "young" age is a miracle.

He started driving in 1948 and still is how marvellous don't you think? He had a great sense of humour and a lovely family he was telling me I could see how special they were to him.

The moral of this true story is that we all need a "boost" don't we? I believe with all my heart that it was a God given meeting it seemed so natural to be with him talking to him as though we had known each other forever.

The last thing he said to me before I left "I'll watch out for you in Heaven" we laughed and I said don't forget. I got up and walked away turning around three times to wave to him and he did the same he waved back each time with a lovely smile.

What a God given blessing
God sent me this blessing and He **will** do the same for you
Keep moving forward in your life and watch and wait upon the Lord

I hope that this true story of John has given YOU hope,
confidence, peace and the joy to move forward with your
own life.

Sometimes we can't see what we have with us

Maybe other people think they know who we are and what we have in us, but to say no they don't. There's only the One who knows and that is who created each one of us, who gave us all we will ever need to live out our life from birth until we go home to be Him – The Almighty Lord God.

Let me tell you what I mean - I have always loved the countryside the sounds of the sheep bleating away in the fields, the harmonious sounds of the birds and the colourful array of scented flowers of all shapes and sizes with their intense aroma that they give off to all and for everyone to enjoy.

A few weeks before Christmas I went into my local hardware store and as I was just about to walk in when I noticed a very large cardboard box right next to the entrance. In the box were a lot of wooden door stops like in the olden days within an instant I "knew" in me that I would make something out of one of them. I have never worked with wood before I hadn't thought anything about it so it was total surprise to me so I took one home to see what I could make this piece of wood. I made a Santa, a Snowman, a Sledge, Rudolph and a Christmas cottage with two pieces of the door stops.

I then went to the wood yard and started to think (well God inspired) what can I make now so I made a set of books in sets of three in wood then came the wooden cottages, houses and beach huts it seemed as it all flowed into one, but although I said I had the ideas I did not I was and am still inspired by God.

He takes me and He will take you to heights as we've never known before if we let Him. I stepped out in faith and look what happened. I went from small beginnings (doorstops) to larger pieces (cottages) etc

Did I know what I had in me absolutely not in the crafting and design areas, but God did.

My latest inspiration from the Lord is beautiful framed cottage flowers.

- So step out in faith and see what happens you might just as surprised as I was.
- I did, so can you, have faith and have faith in yourself.
- 2 Corinthians 5 v 7 says this – For we walk by faith, not by sight. (KJV)